## Message Text

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PAGE 01 BRASIL 05886 272108Z ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 AGRE-00 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-03 H-01 INR-10 INT-05 L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 CTME-00 AID-05 SS-15 STR-07 ITC-01 TRSE-00 ICA-11 SP-02 SOE-02 OMB-01 DOE-15 /133 W

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P R 272020Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8441
INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MEXICO
AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO
AMCONSUL SAO PAULO

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E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: ETRG, BR

SUBJECT: COFFEE: PRODUCER MEETING AT ICA EXECUTIVE BOARD SESSION

- 1. SUMMARY. ACCORDING TO THE O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO, IBC PRESIDENT CAMILLO CALAZANS ANNOUNCED THAT BRAZIL AND CENTRAL AMERICAN COFFEE PRODUCERS WILL MEET, PARALLEL TO ICA EXECUTIVE BOARD SESSION NEXT WEEK, TO DISUCSS UNILATERAL PRODUCER ACTION TO SUSTAIN COFFEE PRICES. CARLOS PEREZ, HEAD OF THE BASIC PRODUCTS DIVISION OF THE FOREIGN MINISTRY, DENIED THAT PRODUCERS WILL DISCUSS UNILATEAL ACTIONS, STATING THAT PRODUCERS WILL "DISCUSS THE SAME TOPICS AS CONSUMERS". END SUMMARY.
- 2. ACCORDING TO THE OO ESTADO DE SAO PAULO, IBC PRESIDENT CAMILLO CALAZANS ANNOUNCED THAT COFFEE PRODUCERS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 02 BRASIL 05886 272108Z

WILL MEET IN LONDON NEXT WEEK TO DISCUSS UNILATERAL PRODUCER ACTION TO SUSTAIN COFFEE PRICES. THE ESTADO TERMED THE MEETING AS PARALLEL TO THE EXECUTIVE BOARD SESSIONS OF THE ICA. ACCORDING TO THE ARTICLE, BRAZIL WILL SUGGEST THAT COFFEE NOT BE SHOLD FOR LESS THAN \$1.50 A POUND, ALTHOUGH DISCUSSIONS ON THIS SUBJECT ARE NOT FAR ADVANCED.

- 3. ECONOFF DISCUSSED ARTICLE WITH PEREZ, HEAD OF BASIC PRODUCTS DIVISION AT FOREIGN MINISTRY, AND RECEIVED DENIAL THAT PRODUCERS WILL DISCUSS ACTION OUTSIDE THE FRAMEWORK OF THE COFFEE AGREEMENT. PEREZ STATED THAT NEWSPAPER ARTICLES MISINTERPRETED CALAZAN'S REMARKS AND THAT PRODUCERS WILL ONLY DISCUSS PROPOSALS ON REVISION OF TRIGGER PRICES AND MEXICAN STOCKING PROPOSALS.
- 4. NEWSPAPERS, JULY 27, ALSO REPORTED THAT COMMERCE MINISTER CALMON DE SA, IN WHAT NOW APPEARS TO BE AN ANNUAL RITUAL, BLASTED USDA COFFEE CROP ESTIMATE OF 20 MILLION BAGS CITING IBC ESTIMATE OF 18.9 MILLION BAGS. ACCORDING TO THE COMMERCE MINISTER, THE USDA ESTIMATE WAS DESIGNED TO MANIPULATE PRICES ON THE WORLD MARKET. SAYRE

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